

MINUTES OF THE LAFAYETTE COMMON COUNCIL
January 9, 2006
REGULAR MEETING

The Common Council of the City of Lafayette, Indiana met in regular session on Monday January 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 20 North 6th Street, Lafayette, Indiana.

President Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag of our Country.

The following members were:

Present: Heide, Klinker, Probasco Campbell, Brown, Rhoda, Williamson, Smith and Meyer

Absent: none

The City Clerk stated that there was a quorum present.

City Clerk Cindy Murray and City Attorney Ed Chosnek were present.

Councilman Campbell moved to nominate Councilman Brown as President of the Common Council for the year 2006, Councilman Probasco seconded. The nomination of Councilman Brown for President passed by unanimous voice vote

Councilman Campbell moved to nominate Councilwoman Weast-Williamson as President Pro-Tem for the year 2006, Councilman Heide seconded. Councilman Campbell moved to confirm the nomination by acclamation, Councilman Heide seconded. The nomination of Councilwoman Weast-Williamson, for President Pro-Tem passed by unanimous voice vote "Thereafter, Councilman Brown presided over the meeting."

Councilman Klinker moved to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2005 Regular Session. Councilman Campbell seconded. The minutes passed by unanimous voice vote.

The Clerk stated that there were no Claims, Petitions or Communications

The Clerk stated the following reports are available in the Clerk's Office:

Clerks Office Monthly-November, December 2005
Motor Vehicle, Fleet Maintenance Monthly-November 2005
Water Works Plan Monthly-November 2005
Water Pollution Control Monthly-November 2005
Police Department Monthly-November 2005
Police Department Traffic Monthly-October 2005

Ordinances for Second Reading:

The Clerk read Ordinance 2005-37 (An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, to Rezone Certain Real Estate, from GB to R2, Ron Whistler, Petitioner title only on

second reading. Councilman Meyer moved to withdraw Ordinance 2005-37 at the request of the petitioner. Councilman Klinker seconded. Vote passed by unanimous voice vote.

The Clerk read Ordinance 2005-38 (An Ordinance Establishing Fees under Lafayette Stormwater Code) by title only on second and final reading. Councilman Meyer moved for passage, Councilwoman Williamson seconded. Ordinance 2005-38 passed 8-0 on a roll call vote on second and final reading.

There were no Ordinances for First Reading:

There were no Resolutions:

There were no Reports of Standing or Special Committees.

Mayor Roswarski delivered the State of the City Address as follows

2006 State of the City Address
Lafayette City Hall Council Chambers
January 9, 2006

Good evening.

Members of the City Council, colleagues, friends, and fellow citizens: Thank you for joining with me tonight for my report on the state of our great City. It is an honor to have this opportunity.

2005 was a year of many accomplishments. In 2006, we will see the results of these efforts and of the additional projects beginning in our community. Our economy is strengthening because this is a great place to live, learn, and do business. We have worked hard to market that “Lafayette Means Business”. We strive everyday for public and private partnerships that will move our community forward and create opportunities for all of our citizens.

The state of our City is strong and getting stronger. But make no mistake; while we accomplished much in 2005, we are taking Lafayette to the next level of excellence in 2006.

We will work harder to strengthen our neighborhoods, encourage diversity, and improve our quality of life. We will invest in job creation, workforce development and make Lafayette even more competitive in the global economy. We will continue to improve city services and efficiency, adhering to fiscal discipline.

I want to thank City Clerk Cindy Murray; she has taken the Clerk’s office to the next level of excellence. She has been a tremendous ambassador for the City of Lafayette and has worked tirelessly to more actively engage the Mayors Youth Council. Cindy and her staff have done a great job helping all departments, and our boards and commissions, including the City Council, run smoothly and effectively.

I would like to thank Mary Alyce Bolinger, my administrative assistant. Her calm, respectful demeanor and her commitment to the City of Lafayette have allowed her to help many of our citizens solve problems and find answers. She plays an important role in keeping the Mayor’s Office organized and running efficiently.

I would also like to thank my dedicated team of department heads and their staffs, and the members of our boards and commissions for a job well done. I also want to thank the City legal team, particularly Ed Chosnek, for his wise counsel, friendship, and excellent legal advice.

Together, we are all working as one unit in service to this City. I believe the collaboration and co-operation between City departments is the strongest that it has ever been.

I want to thank you our distinguished City Council members. As an important part of that group effort, you are working hard to represent your constituents and to be progressive in your thinking and decisions making, which allows this City to move forward. I know that we share the same vision to make Lafayette a leader in all that we do.

That spirit of cooperation and collaboration is important and strong with our fellow governments and leaders—Tippecanoe County, West Lafayette, and State and Federal legislators. We all know that it is in our best interests to work together.

And I want to thank the people of Lafayette for your trust and support. Over the past year, we have continued to build a relationship that will only strengthen in the years to come.

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The City of Lafayette continues to be a community that transforms challenges into opportunities. Citizens and local government have come together to find solutions despite adversity.

In 2004 when the state told us we had to cut \$3.5 million from the City budget because of changes in local government financing, we were confronted with a serious challenge. In 2005, we were told to cut \$2.9 million and we did. Difficult decisions had to be made and they were made. Creative solutions, strategic alliances, combining resources, and strict fiscal discipline have all been implemented.

I want to thank Controller Steve Bultinck and Deputy Controller Terry Schmitt for their commitment to fiscal discipline and reduced spending, while maintaining our vision for the fiscal health and well being of our community.

Public safety continues to be a top priority for my administration.

Under the leadership of Chief Don Roush, the Police Department is a leader in municipal law enforcement. The LPD has completed a needs assessment plan that will chart the department's course over the next five years.

The Police Department now has a core value statement that reads as follows. "As leaders of the community we will perform our duties with the utmost fairness and respect of all citizens. We will be loyal to our mission and to the community we serve to protect and defend all citizens' rights with dignity, honor, and compassion. We will have the courage to do what is right and to stand against what is wrong, while always applying common sense to the difficult decisions we must make."

During the 2005 calendar year, the Lafayette Police Department worked to provide many programs to achieve their visions, goals, and objectives and I would like to mention a few.

A canine program that has added new tools to fight crime and drug offenders.

They received a grant from the Marquis Foundation to develop a Spanish Immersion Program that will support the LPD in providing bi-lingual officers to assist with our Spanish-speaking citizens.

Brought the Volunteers in Policing (VIPS) program online, which brings volunteers into the department to complete tasks that assist the department in its police mission. The first volunteers have worked approximately 80 hours and this additional resource will help save officer time and provide more resources to fight crime.

The LPD published the book *Be the Best You Can Be*, to provide a resource for Lafayette's 5th graders. This book provides inspirational stories to help students understand that character matters. This program was managed by Officer Richard as part of the Dare Program and was supported by North Central Health Services.

The LPD began a traffic program this year with four officers that are providing additional traffic enforcement and investigation skills.

The LPD began a "television" show with Insight public access called *On Patrol* to bring citizens more information to assist them with prevention and education of a number of topics.

The Lafayette Police Department is trained to national standards through the National Incident Management System (NIMS), so that all police commanders meet Homeland Security initiatives for managing large-scale disaster or terrorist incidents.

Additional drug interdiction training was implemented department-wide to increase drug arrests and confiscations.

The LPD began a media information exchange (MIX) to bring law enforcement and media together to provide a better exchange of information to enhance services to the public.

These programs along with the Departments on-going bike patrol, fugitive search, commander education and critical incident teams makes Lafayette a leader in Law Enforcement.

Chief Jim Morrow has done an outstanding job leading our Fire Department. The year 2005 was progressive for the Fire Department. Through the dedication and hard work of our members, the Lafayette Fire Department was able to secure over \$400,000 in grants for equipment from FEMA and Fairfield Township. These grants provided funds to purchase Thermal Imaging Cameras for all frontline apparatus. Life safety is the number one priority for us, and this will enable us to perform a faster and more thorough search with the first on-scene company. We were also fortunate enough to receive a FEMA grant to replace our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. This replacement, along with the state-of-the-art MSA Clear Command Helmet Communication system that was implemented in 2004, puts our firefighters as leaders in modern equipment.

Pre-plans are now being entered into a computerized program that the Shift Commander can access from a mobile computer in their vehicle. This is being done in an effort to make us better prepared and better informed should an emergency arrive.

The Hazmat team is in the process of equipping a 32-foot trailer that was purchased by TEMA with Homeland Security funds for use by the Lafayette Fire Department. Further, the Hazmat team has technicians who are trained to address radiological, chemical, and biological agents.

The 16-member Dive team continues its training and preparedness for our community.

It is the goal of the Lafayette Fire Department to be prepared to control and contain natural hazards, as well as those that pose a threat through outside influences.

Safety and prevention are the keys to mitigate hazards. Each year, school children attend the Fire Prevention Show to learn about safety. And, our fire inspectors work closely with businesses to protect their buildings, employees, and customers.

I believe that the men and women of our Police and Fire Departments are the finest in the State and the Nation, and I want to thank each of them for their service and professionalism.

The Engineering, Water, and Wastewater Departments continue to play an essential role in the vitality and growth of our community. This was an area that was extremely busy in 2005 and shows no sign of letting up in 2006.

Overall, the Engineering Department has improved in both efficiency and customer service. In 2002, we were operating with 18 full-time and 3 part-time employees. In 2005, we operated with 13 full-time and 2 part-time employees. Under the Direction of City Engineer and Public Works Director Jenny Bonner, the Department is constantly looking at ways to improve their efficiency and better the staff. Some of the improvements included:

- Establishing a tracking system and accountability measures for the plan review process.

- Creating a coordinated single plan review letter for building permits.

- Incorporating the Fire Department more actively into the plan review and inspection process.

- Assigning staff to follow up on permits and inspections.

- Coordinating final inspections and a single punch list letter.

- Adding computers and cameras for the inspection staff.

- Re-allocating vehicles to save on wear and mileage.

The Engineering Department has set many goals for 2006.

Of top priority is to make continued improvements in efficiency through better customer service during the plan review and permit process and construction inspection.

- Implement a training and professional development program for our inspection staff.

- Continue efforts to computerize our records.

- Incorporate a digital plan submission process.

From a Public Works standpoint, the number of projects underway, in design, or near completion is extensive. I will name just a few a larger projects.

- Greenbush Street reconstruction project.

- Brady Lane reconstruction project.

- Park East Blvd project. This project will have a substantial positive effect on the traffic situation on Creasy Lane and State Rd 26. It will also open up a large area for business development that will provide many opportunities.

- Improvements at the intersection of State Rd 26 East and Creasy Lane. This reconstruction project will help the flow of traffic through one of our community's busiest intersections.

- Using federal funds, 18th Street and Kossuth will be rebuilt with a new design to improve one of our most dangerous intersections.

- The Pearl River Wastewater Lift Station will be constructed as well as the Ross Road pumping Station.

- The Lafayette Union Railway utility extension project will be completed, which will give us a shovel-ready industrial park.

The Service Area 21 Master plan is complete and prepares us to work with the development of the Hoosier Heartland Corridor.

In addition, the Water Department installed 1,350 radio-read units to improve efficiency.

- Computerized the water main locations at our chemical treatment facilities.

- Acquired new state-of-the-art water analysis equipment for our water-lab.

- Installed new, high efficiency chemical treatment equipment at both Canal and Glick well fields.

- Installed 550 new water services.

- Painted 1,950+ fire hydrants.

In regards to Safety and Security, many improvements were made including:

- Installation of surge/lightning protection on the Park Pumping Station security system.

- Completion of an EPA Risk Management Plan.

- In May of 2005, the Wastewater Department submitted its Combined Sewer Overflow long-term control plan to the EPA.

- The Treatment Plant operated very well in 2005 having zero violations for our NPDES permit.

Emergency generators also went online for the plant in April 2005.

The Wastewater Department initiated an aggressive collection system cleaning routine in 2005. This resulted in over four times the amount of sewer collection system being cleaned compared to the previous year, and over seven times the number of manholes cleaned versus the previous year.

I would like to thank Jenny Bonner, Brad Talley, and Kerry Smith and their staffs for all their efforts in planning, maintaining, and operating our entire infrastructure.

Community development and redevelopment continues to be a large part of what makes our community strong and vibrant. Dennis Carson and Aimee Jacobson have done terrific jobs in these two areas.

The Community Development Department continued its efforts working with our neighborhoods and social service agencies in 2005. They administered programs that brought new sidewalks, curbs, and handicap accessible ramps to nine neighborhoods.

They were instrumental in helping the community meet its emergency needs by working with such organizations as Food Finders, Lafayette Urban Ministry, Lafayette Transitional Housing, YWCA domestic violence intervention program, Tippecanoe Community Health Clinic, and Tippecanoe County Child care.

In the area of housing, Community Development worked with the Neighborhood Action Committee, Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation, Tippecanoe County Council on Aging, Lafayette Neighborhood Housing Services, Area IV, and Habitat for Humanity. These works included repair, rehabilitation, and construction programs, which eliminated slum and blight and provided decent, safe and affordable housing for our community.

In 2005, Dennis Carson was brought on staff as the Director of the Redevelopment Department. This transition brought the Urban Enterprise Zone program and the Redevelopment Office together. With Dennis' expertise in community and economic development and his close association with many civic organizations, this presented a tremendous opportunity for the City of Lafayette. It helped to create a one-stop-shop for those seeking to do business with the City of Lafayette.

The Department has also been busy working with expansion projects for SIA, and Tate and Lyle among others. Also, they worked on the Cascada (Coss-cah-dah) Business Park, Lafayette Pavilions, and Downtown revitalization, including new sidewalks and streetscape and Renaissance Place—a \$25 million mixed use building now under construction, along with many more.

The City of Lafayette is on the fast track moving into the future. The Information Services Department had a very productive year. They have:

- Implemented a new online bill pay/phone pay options for utility customers.

- Completed, tested and distributed the IT Disaster Recovery Plan, which provides a plan to assemble and re-establish the City's data processing and voice communications capabilities in the event of a major disaster such as a tornado.

- Replaced the aging iSeries AS/400 with a new state of the art iSeries.

- The new iSeries will provide the City with years of service for uses such as Finance, Budgeting, HR, Utility Billing and Procurement.

Implemented LaserFische Document Imaging to Engineering, CDRD, Utility Billing, and Purchasing, which will streamline workflow, reduce paper shuffling, and allow for easy document retrieval across the network.

Extended fiber optic networks to Water Pollution Control and Fire #1, for state-of-the-art communications between City Hall and these sites, and in 2006, it will be extended to the Water Plant, Fleet Maintenance, Park Central Maintenance, and the Golf course. I would like to thank Andy Milam and his staff for their efforts.

The Parks Department also had a very successful year in 2005. Under the leadership of Superintendent Ted Bumbleburg, the Parks Department, like many other departments, did more with less. The Department continued its commitment to neighborhood parks, with Hanna Park and Arlington Park renovation projects completed. The Darby Park renovation plan is complete and construction will begin in 2006. Planning has begun with the Centennial Neighborhood Association for the renovations of Centennial Park, and the staff has begun planning for the Brittany Chase Park area. The dog park master plan was completed in conjunction with the Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette.

Loeb Stadium renovations were completed, and Lafayette hosted the ISHAA State Baseball Finals. The Columbian Park zoo office, gift shop building, new modern restrooms, and infrastructure for future exhibits were completed. We have now started the process of developing funding sources to begin the construction of the initial exhibits.

The CAT Park project is nearing completion. In the spring, users of CAT Park will have new permanent restrooms, concession stands, and an additional parking lot that will allow for better utilization. I would also like to thank the Greater Lafayette Recreational Soccer Alliance for contributing \$35,000 towards this project.

We were able to pave the Lybault Fields Parking lot due to the generosity of several local donors.

The Lafayette Municipal golf course had an excellent year under the control of the City and managed by Jason Biddinger. There were a total of 20,457 rounds played. A Golf Advisory Committee comprised of local citizens was established. We have begun the process of installing a new more effective automated pumping system, and \$72,500 was put into the flood recovery fund.

Our Aquatics and McAllister Centers all had excellent years and saw improved participation in many of their programs.

I would like to make special note of something the Park Staff developed—a Chili Cook-off Fundraiser for improvements to the Columbian Park Lagoon.

I again would like to thank Ted, Mike Jones, Joni Heide, John Cornell, Claudine Lauffman, Clay Finney, Jon Miner, and all of the employees for all of their hard work.

The Street Department and Fleet Maintenance continue to provide excellent services to a growing community, and they are doing this with less people by being more efficient and more organized. I would like to thank Street Commissioner Dan Crowell and Fleet Maintenance Director Tim Bullis, and all of the men and women of the Street, Sanitation and Fleet Departments for their efforts.

The Utility Billing Department has made major changes in the last year: Online bill paying, pay-by-phone, new accounting procedures, progressive collection efforts, updating antiquated records, and for the first time, cross-training of employees. Utility Billing Manager Brenda Sheets has committed her department to constant improvement and to staying current with modern technology. I would like to thank Brenda and her staff for all their hard work.

The Facilities, Human Resources, and Purchasing Departments have all worked together this year to save the taxpayers money, by being smarter with our purchases, doing more projects in-house, thoroughly modifying activity sheets to better track time spent on work orders, and by participating in the employer's health forum. I would like to thank Gregg Morrow, Lou Hill, and Rick Morrissey and their staffs for their spirit of cooperation and commitment to the citizens of Lafayette.

Our vision for Lafayette's future is this: Our children receiving the best education they can and then choosing to live, work, and raise their family here because the opportunities are just too exciting to pass up.

Last year, I spoke during this address about not only working harder, but also about working smarter at economic development. We are doing just that by bringing several independent groups and civic organizations together. We are now underway and totally committed to achieving a fully integrated economic development organization to serve our City and the Lafayette-West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County and West Central Region. We have worked hard to open consistent dialogue with our employers on issues such as healthcare, workforce development, and training issues - striving to better our climate for business investment and expansion.

You may also recall that last year in this address I spoke about transforming challenges into opportunities. I reported that I had convened a meeting at City Hall to discuss with Fairfield Manufacturing representatives what the community could do to help, as Fairfield was facing difficult times. We had community and economic development leaders from around the State participate, and the City committed \$50,000.00 in training funds. Under the leadership of Gary Lehman and a dedicated workforce, the company is beginning to turnaround. I quote President and CEO Gary Lehman from a Journal and Courier article dated January 2, 2006. "We are about 18 months into our turnaround efforts, and although we still have much work remaining, the results are encouraging". The article further states that Fairfield has hired more than 325 employees since it began restructuring in mid-2004, boosting employment to approximately 1000. It expects to add 30 to 40 more workers this year.

In the same article we also heard encouraging words from Wabash National CEO Bill Greubel, "We continue to see our business and the industry with positive growth over the next two to three years." Wabash National now has about 3,600 full time associates and is one of the area's largest employers.

We can never lose focus on economic development and our work with local industry and business. This has resulted in other positive developments such as Alcoa hiring 165 new workers in 2005 and projecting a strong year for 2006. Tate and Lyle and SIA are making 100's of millions of dollars of new investment in our community. We were also able to fill one of our longest and largest vacant properties. Later this month, The Home Depot will open where the deteriorated and vacant old Target store once stood. I now quote from the Journal Courier article dated December 27, 2005, "Home Depot's decision to build a store in Lafayette is literally the highest compliment we can pay the community. Considerable work goes into selecting each store site," said Casey Yancey, northern division public relations manager for the home improvement giant. "Essentially, what we're saying is that we like what we see. We think the community's growth potential is strong and its best years are certainly ahead of it, and we would like to help the city achieve its goals."

We have also received Statewide and National attention. In May of 2005, Lafayette ranked 23rd among 168 U.S. communities in Forbes magazine ratings of the best small metropolitan area's for business and careers. Our Downtown was featured in print and television by Inside Indiana Business Weekly, which focused on the nearly \$11 million in renovations, more than \$25 million in new construction, 15 new businesses and more coming that add up to a booming 2005 for downtown Lafayette-West Lafayette and our community.

Recently, the Journal and Courier reported that Lafayette had earned a spot in Rich Karlgaard's latest book, Life 2.0. In the book, Karlgaard focuses on economics and quality of life. Lafayette is listed in the section which examines the 150 Cheapest and Greatest Places to live in the United States. In his description of Lafayette, which comes under Porch Swing Communities, Karlgaard praises the "low low tax rates" and job outlook.

To keep Lafayette in a state of progress and to achieve our vision, we must continue working together. We must continue to strengthen our parks, develop our riverfront, and work with our neighborhoods. We must be committed to our infrastructure. Public safety will always be a priority as we work with our citizens and our schools. Economic development, job creation, workforce development, and education will continue to be a daily activity. We have made tremendous progress in the last two years and we are well positioned for the future. I am confident that by local government working with its citizens and partnering with businesses and education, we will continue to move our great city forward to make it an even better place to live, learn, work, and raise a family.

Thank you.

The Mayor received a standing ovation from the audience.

Miscellaneous and New Business: President Brown announced the reappointment to the Historic Review Board, of the following members Rick Schwarz, Gary Brouillard and Dick Nagel. Councilman Probasco motioned to approve, Councilman Meyer seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

President Brown announced the reappointment to the Redevelopment Commission, of the following members Don Teder and John Thieme Jr. Councilman Klinker motioned to approve, Councilman Campbell seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Reports of Councilman: None

Public Comment: None

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Campbell moved to adjourn, Councilman Klinker seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Murray, City Clerk

Complete audio tape available in the City Clerks Office